

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: IO/SCT:LNCAVANAUGH

APPROVED BY: IO/SA-MS MCCLELLAN

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P 062246Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY 7712

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082777

FOR USDEL UNEP

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 8402 ACTION SECSTATE INFO GENEVA USUN
NEW YORK NEW DELHI TOKYO MOSCOW KUALA LUMPUR JAKARTA MANILA
DACCA CANBERRA SINGAPORE ISLAMABAD SEOUL LONDON COLOMBO WELLINGTON
PEKING 05 APR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8402

FROM AMBASSADOR BENNETT AND USDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESCAP, OCON

SUBJECT: ESCAP: ADJOURNMENT OF 32ND SESSION: GENERAL COMMENTS

SUMMARY: THE 32ND SESSION OF THE ESCAP ADJOURNED APRIL
2 AT 12:35 P.M. MEETING ENDED ON A POSITIVE, LOW KEY
BUT UP BEAT NOTE. US DEL GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL IN SECURING
POSITIONS OF USG AND IN MAINTAINING MORE THAN SATISFACTORY
POSITIVE RELATION TO MEMBERS, OBSERVERS AND THE SECRETARIAT.
SEVERAL INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS ARE REPORTED BY WAY
OF BACKGROUND FOR INFORMATION OF ADDRESSEES. END SUMMARY.

1. AT OUTSET OF SESSION, INDIAN AND SRI LANKAN DELS

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INTRODUCED USUAL NIEO AND CERDS ISSUES AS PREAMBULAR

PARTS TO RESOLUTIONS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SHIPPING AND REGIONAL STRUCTURES. US DEL PROMPTLY AND FORCEFULLY RESPONDED WITH CATEGORIC ASSERTION THAT US, AND WE BELIEVE GENERAL, INTERESTS LIE IN ACTION RESULTS RATHER THAN POLITICAL RHETORIC. WE MADE CLEAR OUR DESIRE TO PRESERVE SPIRIT OF SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION BUT READINESS TO LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED PROTECTING OUR RESERVATIONS IN RESPECT TO POLITICAL DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS WITH WHICH WE DID NOT THEN AND DO NOT NOW CONCUR. FAIRLY INTENSIVE LOBBYING AND INPUTS OF DEL RESULTED IN ULTIMATE WITHDRAWAL ALL REFERENCES TO THESE MATTERS WITH EXCEPTION OF LAST MINUTE COMPROMISE DRAFT ON SHIPPING WHICH UTILIZED PREFIX QUOTE BEARING IN MIND UNQUOTE IN RE NIEO AND QUOTED PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS ON WHICH US HAD NOT RESERVED AT SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION.

2. JAPAN AND INDIANS AGGRESSIVELY SOUGHT TO PRESS FOR INCREASED SHARE OF UN RESOURCES FOR ASIAN REGION. THEY ALSO PRESSED FOR MAINTENANCE OF REGIONAL ACTIVITY HERE BY UNDP EVEN IF THIS MAINTENANCE MEANT FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS TO OTHER AREAS. US DEL IN CONSORT WITH OTHER FRIENDLIES SUCCESSFUL IN PRESERVING INTEGRITY OF UNDP CONSENSUS AND IN FACT JOINED WITH UK, NEW ZEALAND IN SQUELCHING ANY ACTION ON DECENTRALIZATION.

3. CHINESE AND RUSSIANS RESUMED THEIR ICEBERG WAR. CHINA SUCCESSFULLY PRESERVED ITS POSTURE AS LEGITIMATE AND FRIENDLY MEMBER OF REGION, WHILE INSISTING THAT USSRIS, IN ESSENCE, AND INTERLOPER MORE INTERESTED IN POLITICALIZATION THAN IN BASIC WELL BEING OF ESCAR.

4. WHILE SECRETARIAT GENERALLY HEAVILY ORIENTED TOWARD VIEWS OF INDIA AND SRI LANKA MEETING WAS SUCCESSFULLY PRESSED BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND DONOR DELEGATIONS INTO A FAIRLY BALANCED STANCE IN RESPECT OF WORK PROGRAM, RELATIONSHIP TO HEADQUARTERS, AND PRIORITIES. OUR VIEW IS THAT MARAMIS CONDUCTED RESPONSIBLE DAMAGE CONTROL OPERATION AND UNDOUBTEDLY ASSURED HIS REAPPOINTMENT
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FOR ANOTHER THREE YEAR TERM COMMENCING JULY 1.

5. UNDP CAME UNDER HEAVY FIRE AS A RESULT OF ITS CASH CRISIS. ITS REPRESENTATIVES (COOMERASWAMI) REMAINED HERE FOR THE FIRST WEEK AND DID NOT SUCCEED IN CLEARLY EXPLAINING AND DEFENDING THE REASONS FOR THE REDUCTION IN RESOURCE AVAILABILITY. ADDITIONALLY, UNDP ERRED SUBSTANTIALLY BY DIRECTING ACROSS THE BOARD CUTS IN

PROGRAM ACTIVITY AS OPPOSED TO SELECTIVE REDUCTIONS ACCORDING TO VIEWS OF MEMBER STATES. AS HAS BEEN OUR IMPRESSION IN OTHER REGIONS, THIS MEAT AXE APPROACH WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE TIME AND SKILL IF ITS FRANK IMPACT UPON RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS IS TO BE HELD.

6. THE CHINESE WERE PARTICULARLY WARM AND FRIENDLY TOWARD US DEL. WE WERE ACCORDED HONOR POSITION AT THEIR ELABORATE DINNER. THEY ALSO VISITED AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR FIRST TIME ON AOCCASION OF DELEGATION RECEPTION. THERE WERE NUMBEROUS TOASTS AT THEIR BASH AND AT LEAST ONE WAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE IMPORT BY THEIR INTERPRETER AND THOSE MORE FAMILIAR WITH CHINESE CUSTOMS THAN US DEL.

7. KOREAN CREDENTIALS DID NOT BECOME A MAJOR ISSUE, AND ROK WAS NOT MENTIONED BY NAME ALTHOUGH OBJECTIONS TO "ONE COUNTRY" WERE REGISTERED BY CHINA, PAKISTAN AND MONGOLIA. ROK DEL HAD STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE AND ISSUE EVEN OF THIS BUT FOREBORE AFTER CHECKING WITH SEOUL ON OUR SUGGESTION THEY WOULD MERELY BUILD UP THEIR PROBLEM BY MAKING AN ISSUE OF IT.

8. FINALLY WE WERE IMPRESSED BY THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH REPRESENTATION AT SESSION OF VERY SENIOR LEVEL, VIRTUALLY NO POLITICAL ISSUES OF CONSEQUENCE OR MAJOR ISSUES OF TRADE AND FINANCE WERE VIGOROUSLY PURSUED HERE. HAVING EARLY MADE CLEAR OUR HOPE THAT THE PROCEEDINGS OF UNCTAD IV AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WOULD NOT BE PREJUDGED, THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE FIRM BUT FORTHCOMING EXPRESSION OF OUR POSITION EARLY ON MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS HIATUS. FINALLY, THE USUN REPS AT THIS SESSION WERE IMPRESSED BY THE ORDERLY AND RATHER BUSINESS-LIKE

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MANNER OF MOST DELEGATIONS (PARTICULARLY MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, THE PHILIPPINES AND BANGLADESH) IN SPITE OF THE TERRIFYING DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEMS OF STAVING OFF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REGRESSION IN THIS AREA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE082777
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/SCT:LNCAVANAUGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760130-0424
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760491/aaaaczve.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESCAP: ADJOURNMENT OF 32ND SESSION: GENERAL COMMENTS SUMMARY: THE 32ND SESSION OF THE ESCAP ADJOURNED APRIL
TAGS: OCON, XC, US, ESCAP
To: NAIROBI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006